

**CLARK COUNTY  
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION**

**Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, August 4, 2004

6:30 – 9:00 PM

Clark County Public Works  
Maintenance and Operations

---

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Robbie Agard, Anne Jackson, Bill Owen, Judy Schramm, Don Stienke, Art Stubbs, Judy Thoet and, Virginia VanBreeman

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Susan Rasmussen

Clark County Public Works Staff

Bud Cave, Kelli Frost, and Earl Rowell

Audience

Thom McConathy and Joel White

**Call to Order**

*Packet of Materials*

8/4/04 Clean Water Commission Agenda

7/7/04 Clean Water Commission Meeting Notes

Letter from Mr. Stubbs to the Board of County Commissioners

2004 members of the Clean Water Commission

Clean Water Commission by-laws

Press release regarding the Stream Health Report

Student Watershed Research Project pamphlet

Watershed Stewards Quarterly Report

*7/7/04 Meeting Notes*

Mr. Owen requested that additional information be added to three statements in the July 7, 2004 notes.

Page one- ....the oil brochure is near completion.

Page two-...Earl reviewed the draft budget with the Clean Water Commissioners

Page three-.... Earl provided handouts regarding the types of Clean Water Program calls received.

**Communications with the Public**

*CVTV*

Mr. Rowell met with CVTV to put together a segment on the Clean Water Fee Program that will be showing at various times throughout August.

*Stream Health Report*

A press release was issued concerning the Stream Health Report, which has prompted several inquiries for more information. The Stream Health Report is located on the county web page; copies are available by request.

## **Public Comments**

Mr. McConathy from Clark County Water Quality Resource Council made two comments:

Our community's commitment towards this issue (proprietary systems) is one of the lowest commitments of any community in all of the state of Washington. I find this alarming and I don't think that it is a very good thing. I don't think that people like to see their community have that low of a commitment. We have terrible problems which are associated with stormwater of which are not being addressed. I believe that we need to ask for a greater commitment and be more aggressive.

Another thing I find alarming is that I get all the SEPA's and I've been seeing more of a trend of more and more proprietary systems being accepted and I don't know whether these are being turned over to the county or whether they are being inspected. Many of these proprietary systems are expensive to maintain and I do not think the community should accept that level of responsibility. I appreciate your role as citizen's commissioners. I hope that you will look into oil/water separators.

Ms. Thoet asked what was meant by proprietary systems?

Mr. McConathy replied that when people buy a new house often times the developer will build an underground vault and inside the vault would be a system that will treat water.

Mr. Agard stated that these occur generally at shopping centers and service stations that are privately owned and have a private system. They are not turned over to the county for maintenance or upkeep. We have to make a division between systems that were designed, built, and maintained by the county and those that are privately owned.

Judy Schramm replied to Mr. McConathy that this was a fairly new commission and it took several years to gather money to put towards big projects and we do have a list of projects that are in process and some that are completed. This commission has a commitment towards cleaning up the water in the county.

Mr. Owen asked Mr. McConathy to clarify his statement regarding oil/water separators.

Mr. McConathy replied that he is interested in the county inspecting oil/water separators on a regular basis. If they are not maintained properly then they do not do their job effectively.

The Clean Water Commissioners thanked Mr. McConathy for his comments.

Mr. Cave from Maintenance and Operations stated that he would see if the county was inspecting oil/water separators on a routine basis.

## **Low Impact Development**

### *Building Industry Association*

Joel White from the Building Industry Association described their green built program which is focused heavily on home construction and has six different elements, one of which is site treatment which he thought that the Clean Water Commission would be most interested in.

Mr. Owen asked Mr. White if he noticed if there are particular technologies in low impact development that have been used successfully here in Clark County?

Mr. White replied that he has seen some in Seattle, Portland and in the larger markets.

Mr. Owen asked if the build green program was a fledgling program.

Mr. White replied that the build green program started in 1997 and got off to a great start and then went into a lull and that now they are trying to get it going again.

Mr. Owen asked what incentives do the builders have to be a part of the build green program.

Mr. White replied that there is high marketability for the green build program and in land development it is all about marketing.

The Clean Water Commissioners agreed that in order to proceed with the issue of low impact development they would need to develop a set of goals and a plan on how to proceed. The Commissioners plan to begin this process at the September 1, 2004 meeting.

### **Maintenance and Operations update**

Mr. Cave informed the Clean Water Commissioners that the county has ten vaults and provided a hand out which gave the location of these vaults.

Mr. Cave updated the Commissioners regarding street sweeping that is required to meet the NPDES requirements.

Mr. Cave described the decant facility which was set up to take all the storm water debris from the catch basins and drywells from Clark County and the cities located inside the county. They decant the water and then it is tested; if it meets standards then it is used as a soil amendment.

Mr. Stienke asked if there was a regular schedule to inspect private stormwater facilities.

Mr. Cave stated that there is a person on staff whose primary job is to inspect private facilities.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on August 6, @ 6:30 p.m., Public Works Maintenance and Operations Conference Room

### **Adjourn**

*The Clean Water Commission meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.*

*Respectively Submitted,*

*Kelli Frost*